



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

INEXPENSIVE PRESENTS.

By MRS. OLIVER BELL BUNCE.



NOT only during the holidays but throughout the year one great question that agitates the buyer is, What can I purchase for the least money and yet get the best of its kind?

The selector of gifts can, by careful searching, surmount all difficulties, if only time and patience is given in all directions. For the model housekeeper, of course, there are endless varieties of pretty, as well as sensible, objects, that

claim the attention in every shop, which will always prove charming presents.

Among the choicest is the pretty and unique tea service, which for the artistic tea table is a fine addition. These affairs are in every color, from pure white and gold, running the whole gamut of floral display, which for china is unrivaled. They comprise a long oblong tray, four cups, teapot, sugar bowl, milk jug. All in good forms, and, as for decorations, they are superb in their way, ranging from the low sum of five dollars, increasing in value and beauty until they reach the price of fifty or sixty dollars—something more for the more elaborate ones.

As for equipments for desks for ladies' use, new ideas beam on us every season. This time Dresden china is the fad—Dresden china in calendars, stamp boxes, pens, inkstands, match safes, pen trays, card receivers and those cunning little candlesticks. Every sort of device for my lady's use.

If Japanese articles are to be the scheme there are dainty trifles without number. Boxes in lacquer, which if filled with bon-bons are unique and elegant. Then there are all sorts of composition work in silver and gilt, paper cutters, elaborate photograph frames, button hooks, can openers, berry spoons, and pickle forks, glove boxes, jewel boxes, crumb tray and brush, scrap baskets, fancy mats, easels, knick-knacks of all kinds from \$1.50 and upward, yet artistic in the extreme. This year blue Japanese china takes the lead. The Chinese Hawthorn jars for lamps are wonderful affairs, and as lamps are valued at twenty dollars. Then there is blue china in sets of three pieces, bowls, plates, every conceivable pattern, and of the sweetest tint imaginable.

As for draperies, those small kinds such as table covers, the selection is within the reach of the most economical buyer. Pretty scarfs in square effects, in which a figure of worsted is inserted. All at the low price of fifteen cents. Sheer, delicate in texture, and of colors the most attractive.

Lamps this season at all emporiums are made a feature. Of Japanese there is the Tayian banquet lamp in white and gold, price \$20. The Princess lamp, a grand affair in mountings of brass, value \$40. Low table lamps, from five dollars to fifty. Any single jar can be converted into a lamp if the bowl is large enough. The Tokanarbi was the rage last season, but with iron work as an addition it holds its own with strong persistency. A delightful piece of room furnishing for a library or drawing-room. Globes are now making considerable headway for presents this year. The ones in opaque porcelain are fine with gold figures as decorations, the design of the *fleur de lis* being the favorite. Yet every lamp is a rule to itself. Anything is preferable to those horrid creations in silk—those ballet girl affairs—those monstrosities of artificial flowers which you see at every turn; wretched, tawdry stuff, which should be abolished forever. Globes in flutes are very suitable as presents for lamps, so delicate are their tints that they well harmonize with any stand, however pronounced. For a holiday gift nothing is better than a good, honest lamp.

To do longer on objects for women would indeed be occupying too much space.

For men, old and young, there are novelties by the score which made their appearance in quick rotation during the past holiday season, and are still in fashion. Among the new fads are cigar cases, cigarette holders, match safes and

card cases. These picturesque affairs are in silver, with covers painted in colors. On one cigar case is a bunch of pink roses with green leaves. A cigarette case rejoices in an Italian landscape, and match safes in which tiny bouquets are the scheme. Yet this peculiar treatment on silver will be chosen only by the few who are always on the watch for new ideas for gifts, and rejoice in presenting any odd designs, whether artistic or not.

Of the new departures, the novelty in paper-weights is the most striking. They are of two kinds, red and white, and are in globe forms. They show on their surface a series of air cells, large at the bottom, graduating smaller in size near the top. This method of treating glass is a secret unknown even to those who handle this commodity. When an inkstand is contemplated by the maker of these balls it is hollowed out at the top and a plain silver lid, on a hinge, forms the cover. This charming present can be purchased from the low sum of \$4.50 to \$10.

A new wood has made its appearance for gentlemen's inkstands. It is called Coromandel wood. It is of a dark seal brown in color, with lighter tone of browns running through it—very effective. The pen-tray is included in the stand, and at one end is a cut-glass stand for ink. The value is \$38.

For the man's library there are timepieces of all sorts, on circles, tripods, half moons; all within the reach of the artistic purchaser. Of umbrellas, the Martin make, with natural wood handles, are fine. Tipped with silver, ivory and bone are treated in the same way. All good silk, with cover. Price, from \$10 to \$12.75.

Canes also are capital presents, but the natural wood tipped with silver is the latest scheme. The corkscrew is one of the new ventures for holiday gifts. They are of horn shape, tipped, also with silver, and range in price from \$3 to \$5.

For the fair girl, what is not in her line in the shops? For the birthday present there is everything that will add to her adornment and please her eye. There are papereries, which for beauty are unexcelled. Good English linen paper, with envelopes to match, tied with delicate tints in ribbons, and enclosed in boxes of curly beech, satin wood, celluloid receptacles, fine in their way. Correspondence cards, in which the cameo head does ample duty. Also daisy effects on amateur stained-glass effects. In either instance they head the card, and with them is every accessory for letter writing.

Shell combs, shell side-combs, shell daggers, all in unison with silver and gilt for the golden hair it holds in place.

Cut-glass bottles for perfumery, in designs of stars, chrysanthemums, coronets. All are in demand and purchased *ad libitum*.

Fans of every style—Empire fans, feather fans, lace effects in fans, fans in satin tints. In fact, every device in pretty presents for the girl up to date.

For the wee ones the market overflows with dainty covers, dainty pillows, dainty slippers; all for the brand new baby or for the bright little fairy which is heaven's gift in every household. There are charming little dresses made in perfect taste, with frills, ruffles, done up in boxes, and in their way as superb as the toilettes of their mammas. Small boys can rejoice in evening suits, games, dolls, toys, from a Noah's ark to a safety bicycle. And as for jewelry for the little men and women, they can be well supplied if their elders' taste runs in that direction. For the half-grown girl there are trifles which can be bought to suit all ages, all complexions, all sizes, and not come amiss whatever is selected.

A word of advice to the buyer is timely. Shop always at first-class emporiums. It is a mistake to suppose goods purchased at the best stores are more expensive than those of an inferior dealer in novelties. You will find there a selection more abundant, a choice in pattern of a design more elegant, and on their counters you will see novelties not found everywhere—any of which can be procured at moderate prices to suit moderate purses.

Special sales and bargain tables are unmitigated frauds, for the buyer will soon learn that the wise saying: "The best of a kind is the present of all others to send as a souvenir of the day—a compliment of the season." Yet often an extravagant gift is a worry to one's friends, and an obligation that all sensible people do not wish to be under without returning it sooner or later.